

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2009, submitted concurrently with a one month extension of time to extend the due date for response to September 21, 2009.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the present invention. Thus, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are currently pending in this application. Support for the claim amendments can be readily found variously throughout the specification and the original claims.

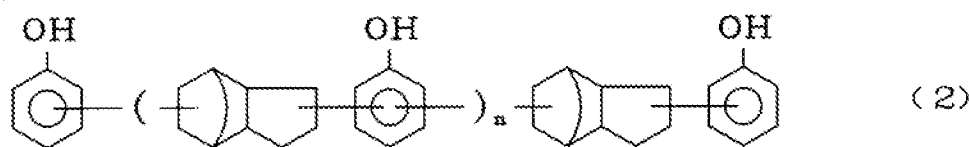
In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akaho et al. (WO 03/066741 A1) in view of Nagai et al. (JP 62-096521). Further, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yonezawa et al. (WO 02/46312 A1 or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0053061 A1) in view of Nagai et al. (JP 62-096521). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more specifically distinguish the present invention over that which is disclosed in Akaho et al., Yonezawa et al. and in particular, Nagai et al. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to delete the hydrophobic phenol compound represented by the chemical formula (2), i.e.

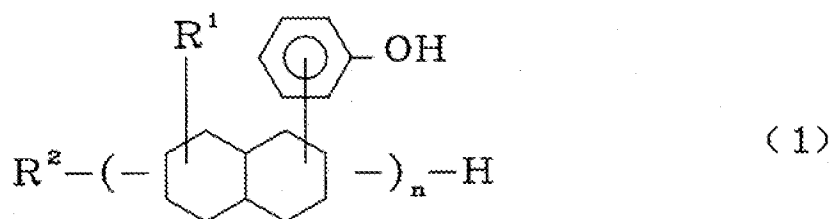
[Chemical 2]



(In the formula (2), n indicates 0 or an integer of 1 – 5).

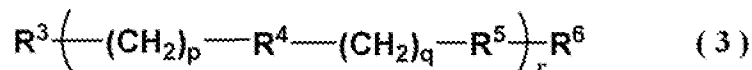
Based on Applicant's review of Nagai et al., Nagai et al. only discloses a compound which arguably reads on the claimed chemical formula (2) but not on the claimed chemical formulas (1) and (3) of claim 1, i.e.

[Chemical 1]



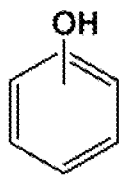
(In the formula (1), R¹ denotes methyl or ethyl, R² denotes hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group and n indicates an integer of 2 – 4) and

[Chemical 3]

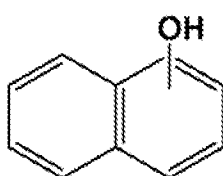


(In the formula (3), R³ denotes a group represented by the following formula (4a) or (4b), R⁴ denotes a group represented by the following formula (5a), (5b) or (5c), R⁵ denotes a group represented by the following formula (6a) or (6b), R⁶ denotes hydrogen or a molecular chain group containing 1 – 20 carbon atoms, p and q independently indicate an integer of 1 – 6, and r indicates an integer of 1 – 11).

[Chemical 4]

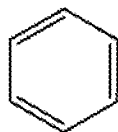


(4a)

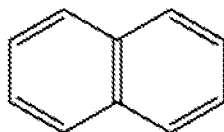


(4b)

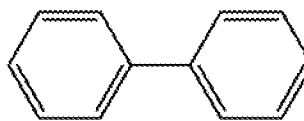
[Chemical 5]



(5a)

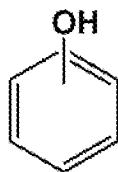


(5b)

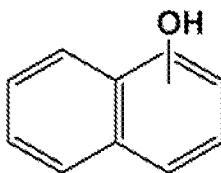


(5c)

[Chemical 6]



(6a)



(6b)

Hence, Applicant believes that none of the cited references teach or suggest the remaining hydrophobic phenol compounds recited in claim 1. As a result, Applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable over the teachings and suggestions of the cited references.

Further, claims 2 and 4-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons noted above. Therefore, in view of such dependency, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 4-12 are also allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the features they recite.


Thus, Applicant submits that these rejections can no longer be sustained and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: September 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-4422 for any such fees; and Applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.